

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 1-14 and add new Claims 15-34 as follows:

Claims 1-14 (Canceled)

15. (New) A method for improving the cleansing effect on non-delicate washing which is to be washed in a washing machine comprising a laundry drum which is driven intermittently during the washing and rinsing process in alternating directions of rotation, wherein in a first phase the laundry drum is accelerated in one direction of rotation to a first rotational speed significantly above an applicational rotational speed and in the other direction of rotation to a second rotational speed significantly below the applicational rotational speed, within at least one of the washing and rinsing process the laundry drum is accelerated in a second phase of high washing mechanics in both directions of rotation to speeds at which the individual items of laundry are strongly compressed and rub vigorously against one another and that the first and second phases take place successively at least once during at least one of the washing and rinsing process, wherein the nominal value of the first speed is selected so that the items of laundry can fall from the drum jacket during a subsequent reduction in the drum speed and that as a result of compression of the items of laundry in the inner area of the drum a sufficiently large free area is created to allow the detached exterior items of laundry to roll into the free area when the laundry drum is accelerated in the opposite direction of rotation to the second rotational speed.

16. (New) The method according to claim 15, wherein the circumferential speed of the laundry drum at the speed for high washing mechanics of the second phase lies in the interval of about 1.1 to 1.6 m/s.

17. (New) The method according to claim 15, wherein the nominal value of the second rotational speed has a value at which the falling items of laundry execute a rolling movement in the drum area.

18. (New) The method according to claim 17, wherein an acceleration of the laundry drum to the second rotational speed takes place immediately after the drum has come to a standstill.

19. (New) The method according to claim 15, wherein the circumferential speed of the laundry drum at the first rotational speed is approximately 3.7 m/s and at the second rotational speed less than about 1.0 m/s.

20. (New) The method according to claim 15, wherein the washing machine includes a device for monitoring at least one of foam formation and laundry imbalance, the drive of the laundry drum being interrupted when at least one of a specified limiting value for the foam formation is exceeded and imbalance occurs.

21. (New) The method according to claim 15, wherein at least one of the rotational speeds, the respective acceleration to the rotational speeds, and the duration of the rotational speeds can be varied as a function of measured values which specify at least one of the type and quantity of the laundry load.

22. (New) The method according to claim 15, wherein at least one of the rotational speeds, the respective acceleration to the rotational speeds, and the duration of the rotational speeds can be varied as a function of the selected washing program.

23. (New) The method according to claim 15, wherein at least one of the duration of the first and second phases and the sequence of the first and second phases can be varied as a function of measured values which specify at least one of the type and quantity of the laundry load.

24. (New) The method according to claim 15, wherein at least one of the duration of the first and second phases and the sequence of the first and second phases can be varied as a function of the selected washing program.

25. (New) A washing machine comprising:

a laundry drum;

a drive motor intermittently driving the laundry drum during the washing and rinsing process in alternating directions of rotation, the laundry drum being rotated in a first phase, in which the laundry drum is accelerated in one direction of rotation to a first rotational speed significantly above an applicational rotational speed and in the other direction of rotation to a second rotational speed significantly below the applicational rotational speed, the laundry drum being rotated in a second phase within at least one of the washing and rinsing process, in which the laundry drum is accelerated in a second phase of high washing mechanics in both directions of rotation to speeds at which the individual items of laundry are strongly compressed and rub vigorously against one another and that the first and second phases take place successively at least once during at least one of the washing and rinsing process, the nominal value of the first speed being selected so that the items of laundry can fall from the drum jacket during a subsequent reduction in the drum speed and that as a result of compression of the items of laundry in the inner area of the drum a sufficiently large free area is created to allow the detached exterior items of laundry to roll into the free area when the laundry drum is accelerated in the opposite direction of rotation to the second rotational speed; and

a speed control device for the drive motor of the laundry drum generating control signals for the drive motor such that the laundry drum is intermittently driven in alternating directions of rotation at respectively different speeds.

26. (New) The washing machine according to claim 25, further comprising a device for establishing and evaluating at least one of foam formation inside the lye container and the developing laundry imbalance, wherein the speed control device generates control signals for the drive motor and when at least one of a specified foam and imbalance limit is exceeded, the drive motor is switched off by these control signals.

27. (New) The washing machine according to claim 25, wherein the speed control device generates control signals for the drive motor by which means at least one of the duration of the individual intervals, the duration of the phase, and the sequence of the phases of at least one of the washing and the rinsing process is varied.

28. (New) The washing machine according to claim 25, further comprising a device for establishing and evaluating at least one of the type and the quantity of laundry items, wherein the formation of control signals for the drive motor by the speed control device is dependent on at least one of the type and the quantity of the laundry items to be treated.

29. (New) A method for washing laundry items in a washing machine including a laundry drum mounted for rotation and a drive motor intermittently driving the laundry drum in alternating directions of rotation, the method comprising the acts of:

rotating the laundry drum in a first phase, in which the laundry drum is accelerated in one direction of rotation to a first rotational speed being above an applicational rotational speed and in the other direction of rotation to a second rotational speed being below the applicational rotational speed;

rotating the laundry drum in a second phase, in which the laundry drum is accelerated in both directions of rotation to a third rotational speed at which the individual items of laundry are compressed and rub vigorously against one another;

selecting a nominal value of the first speed such that the laundry items can fall from the drum jacket during a subsequent reduction in the drum speed;

forming a sufficiently large free area in the laundry drum as a result of compression of the laundry items; and

permitting the detached exterior laundry items to roll into the free area when the laundry drum is accelerated in the opposite direction of rotation to the second rotational speed.

30. (New) The method according to claim 29, wherein the circumferential speed of the laundry drum at the third rotational speed of the second phase is between about 1.1 to 1.6 m/s.

31. (New) The method according to claim 29, wherein the act of rotating the laundry drum in a first phase includes accelerating the laundry drum to the second rotational speed immediately after the drum has come to a standstill.

32. (New) The method according to claim 29, wherein the circumferential speed of the laundry drum at the first rotational speed is about 3.7 m/s and at the second rotational speed is less than about 1.0 m/s.

33. (New) The method according to claim 29, wherein the washing machine includes a monitoring device for monitoring at least one of laundry imbalance and foam formation, the method further comprising the act of interrupting the rotation of the laundry drum in response to the monitoring device detecting at least one of laundry imbalance and a specified limiting value of foam formation being exceeded.

34. (New) The method according to claim 29, wherein at least one of the rotational speeds, the respective acceleration to the rotational speeds, the duration of the rotational speeds, the duration of the first and second phases, and the sequence of the first and second phases is variable as a function of measured values which specify at least one of the type and quantity of the laundry load.